Agricultural production and area under cultivation

3367. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production in the country remained more or less stagnant for some years; barring a marginal increase in the years with ideal rainfalls, despite phenomenal increase in Plan expenditure on Agriculture and Irrigation during the period;

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to increase the production by bringing larger area under cultivation and ensuring higher yields per acre; and

(c) what are the details of comparative production of foodgrains and oilseeds *vis-a-vis* the area cultivated since 1983 84?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Agricultural production is the outcome of various inter-related factors including rainfall pattern, application of fertilisers, high yielding variety seeds, plant protection measures etc. Thus, fluctuations in production are inevitable from year to year depending on rainfall pattern and availability use of inputs. However, during the long term period, the agricultural production has shown a positive rising trend.

(b) In order to increase the area and production of various crops, the following measures are being taken:—

(i) Maximisation of productivity in assured areas such as rainfed areas with high rainfall;

(ii) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, implements, plant protection chemicals and credit, etc., inclusive of imparting improved technology;

(iii) Increasing the coverage of area under high yielding varieties with proper plans for production and distribution of sufficient seeds;

(iv) Implementation of the National Programmes on Crops like Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States, National Pulses Development Programme, National Oilseeds Development Project and other programmes on resource management through Small and Marginal Farmers Programme and National Watershed Development programme.

(v) Undertaking of several measures to reduce the impact of recurring droughts and to stabilise production through pooling of resources from different ongoing schemes including the poverty alleviation programmes and Central assistance for natural calamities.

(vi) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures.

(vii) Increasing the intensity of cropping through double, multiple and intercropping; and

(viii) Assuring remunerative prices for various food crops to the farmers and organisational support for sale of commodities at these prices.

(c) Details of all-India area and production of foodgrains and oilseeds during the years 1983-84 to 1986-87 are given in the statement.

Statement

All India area and production of foodgrains and oilseeds

Crop	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Foodgrains				
Area (Million hectares)	131.2	126.7	128.0	126.2
Production (Million tonnes)	152.4	145.5	150.4	144.1
Total nine Oilseeds				
Area (Million hectares)	18.69	18.92	19.02	18.69
Production (Million tonnes)	12.69	12.95	10.83	11.45